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THE

SIMPLE COBLER

OF

CLERKENWELL, K

WILLING

To help mend his Native Country, (lamentably tattered both
in the upper Leather and Sole) with all the honest
Stitches he can take.

It is his Trade to patch all the Year long, GRATIS.

*In rebus arduis ac tenui Spe, fortissima quæque consilia
tutissima sunt.* CIO.

When Boots and Shoes are torn up to the Lefts,
Coblers must thrust their Awls up to the Hefts.

L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year, MDCCCLXXVI.

SIMPLE COPIER

CLERK WHEEL

To help you to write
in the most correct and easy
manner, the Clerk Wheel

is the best to learn all the letters

In this wheel, the letters
are written in the most

When the letters are written
in the most correct and easy

L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year, MDCCLXXV.

THE
SIMPLE COBLER, &c.

Friends, Brethren, Fellow Citizens, and Countrymen,

HOWEVER disagreeable the Observation may be, I fear it is too true, that the Earth seems in a Manner dissolved both in Religions and Relations; and no Wonder, seeing that the Inhabitants thereof have defiled it by transgressing the Laws, changing the Ordinances, and breaking the everlasting Covenant. The Truths of God are the Pillars of the World, whereon States and Churches may stand firm and quiet, if they will; but if they will not, God Almighty can easily shake them off into Delusions and Distractions. We are directed by a recent Proclamation to keep a solemn Fast, a Day of Humiliation, and go to Church on *Friday* the Thirteenth of *December* Instant, in order to deprecate Heaven against our brave and virtuous Brethren in *North-America*, who have been drove by multiform Acts of Deceit, Oppression, Injustice, Violence, Despotism, and Tyranny, to take up Arms in Defence of their Lives, Laws, Liberties and Properties! A quite different Turn is given to the Motives of this unhappy Warfare by wicked and designing Men, who want to make us believe, that the *Americans* aimed at nothing short of Independency from the first Beginning of the Dispute; the Contrary of which, however, appears to be true, from the strongest Evidence. In their Petition to the King they observe, That "At the Conclusion of the last War, his Majesty's

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"loyal

“ loyal Colonies having contributed to its Success, by
 “ such strenuous Exertions as frequently procured them
 “ the Approbation of his Majesty, of the late King, and
 “ of Parliament, they doubted not but that they should
 “ be permitted, with the rest of the Empire, to share in
 “ the Blessings of Peace—That whilst those honourable
 “ Acknowledgments of their Merits remained on Record
 “ in the Journals and Acts of that august Legislature, the
 “ Parliament, undefaced by the Imputation, or even Sus-
 “ picion of any Offence, they were alarmed by a new
 “ System of Statutes and Regulations, adopted for the
 “ Regulation of the Colonies.” (a)—“ We shall decline
 “ (say they) the ungrateful Task of describing the irksome
 “ Variety of Artifices practised by many of your Majesty’s
 “ Ministers, the delusive Pretences, fruitless Terrors,
 “ and unavailing Severities which have from Time to Time
 “ been dealt out by them in their Attempts to execute
 “ their impolitick Plan (injurious to the Commerce and
 “ Prosperity of *Great Britain*) or of tracing, through a
 “ Series of Years past, the Progress of the unhappy Dif-
 “ ferences between *Great Britain* and the Colonies, which
 “ have flowed from that fatal Source.” “ Your Maje-
 “ sty’s Ministers persevering in their Measures, and pro-
 “ ceeding to open Hostilities for enforcing them, have
 “ compelled us to arm in our Defence,” &c. “ Could
 “ we (continue they) represent in their full Force, the
 “ Sentiments which agitate the Minds of us your duti-
 “ ful Subjects, we are persuaded your Majesty would
 “ ascribe any seeming Deviation from Reverence in our
 “ Language, and even in our Conduct, not to any re-
 “ prehensible Intention, but to the Impossibility of re-
 “ conciliating the usual Appearances of Respect, with a
 “ just Attention to our Preservation against those artful
 “ and cruel Enemies, who abuse your royal Confidence
 “ and Authority for the Purpose of effecting our Destruc-
 “ tion.”—“ Attached to your Majesty’s Person, Family,
 “ and Government, with all the Devotion that Principle
 “ and Affection can inspire, connected with *Great Britain*

(a) Vide Note (b)

by

“ by the strongest Ties that can unite Societies, and de-
 “ ploring every Event that tends in any Degree to
 “ weaken them, we solemnly assure your Majesty,
 “ that we not only most ardently desire the former
 “ Harmony between her and these Colonies may be re-
 “ stored, but that a Concord may be established between
 “ them upon so firm a Basis, as to perpetuate its Blessings,
 “ uninterrupted by any future Dissentions, to succeeding
 “ Generations in both Countries; and to transmit your
 “ Majesty’s Name to Posterity, adorned with that signal
 “ and lasting Glory which has adorned the Memory of
 “ those illustrious Persons whose Virtues and Abilities
 “ have extricated States from dangerous Convulsions, and
 “ by securing Happiness to others, have erected the most
 “ noble and durable Monuments to their own Fame.”
 “ We beg Leave further to assure your Majesty, that not-
 “ withstanding the Sufferings of your loyal Colonists,
 “ during the Course of the present Controversy, our
 “ Breasts retain too tender a Regard for the Kingdom
 “ from which we derive our Origin, to request such a
 “ Reconciliation as might in any Manner be inconsistent
 “ with her Dignity, or her Welfare. These, related as
 “ we are to her, Honour, and Duty, as well as Inclina-
 “ tion, induce us to support, and advance; and the Ap-
 “ prehensions that now oppress our Hearts with unspeak-
 “ able Grief, being once removed, your Majesty will find
 “ your faithful Subjects on this Continent, ready and
 “ willing, at all Times, as they ever have been, with
 “ their Lives and Fortunes, to assert and maintain the
 “ Rights and Liberties of your Majesty, and of our Mo-
 “ ther Country.”—They concluded, with beseeching his
 Majesty, “ That his royal Authority and Influence might
 “ be graciously interposed to procure them Relief, and
 “ settle Peace through every Part of his Dominions;
 “ submitting with all Humility to his Majesty’s wise
 “ Consideration, whether it might not be expedient for
 “ facilitating those important Purposes that his Majesty
 “ would be pleased to direct some Mode, by which the
 “ united Applications of his faithful Colonists to the
 “ Throne, in pursuance of their common Councils, may

" be improved into a happy and permanent Reconciliation." — This dutiful Petition was delivered to the Earl of *Dartmouth*, on the 1st of *September*, 1775, by *Richard Penn*, and *Arthur Lee*, Esqrs. but to which his Lordship (who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies) said, " No Answer would be given." Some of the cruel Enemies, whom the above recited Petition complains of, either never delivered said Petition to the King, or else warped his Majesty's Royal Clemency so far from the unfortunate Petitioners as to give no Answer to it. In Consequence of which a bloody War is now commenced against our Fellow Subjects in *North-America*, who have valiantly united to defend themselves against lawless Power; (b) and drove, as it were by absolute Necessity, have declared for Independency, as the most probable Means of obtaining Assistance from foreign States; Thousands of Lives are to be sacrificed, Millions of Money squandered away, or made Ducks and Drakes of, and in the Prosecuting of this cruel War, we are now to apply to Heaven for Assistance! We are told, my Fellow Countrymen, and I fear the Bruit is too well founded, that besides his Majesty's ostensible Ministers, who have had a Hand in this Hurly-Burly, there are a Set of invisible Managers in the Cabinet, ycleped " The Junto," in Imitation of those who were called " The Cabal," in the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, from their close Junction, or the strict Union amongst them, but not worthy of Comparison in Respect to the Talents of King *Charles's* Ministers; for the Duke of *Buckingham* was very capable of being a Minister of State, had not his Mind, which was ex-

(b) The following are amongst the Grievances they complained of, viz. The taking, giving and granting their Money without their Consent; Statutes passed for extending the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Admiralty beyond their ancient Limits; for depriving them of the accustomed and inestimable Privilege of Trial by Jury in Cases affecting both Life and Property; for suspending the Legislature, interdicting of Commerce; altering fundamentally the Form of Government established by Charter; for exempting the Murderers of Colonists from legal Trial, and in Effect from Punishment, &c. &c.

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cellently endowed, been too much drawn away by Pleasure; the Duke of *Lauderdale*, a Scot, was a refined Politician; the Lord Treasurer *Clifford*, wanted nothing but a Stage, on which sound Reason and Virtue had been more in Use than they were in his native Country; the Earl of *Arlington*, Secretary of State, had the least Genius of the five; but his Experience made amends, and had gained him great Knowledge in public Affairs; *Anthony Ashley Cooper*, Earl of *Shaftsbury*, and Lord Chancellor, was the fittest of them all to manage any great Undertaking; a mighty Genius, clear sighted, bold, and full of Intrigue.—It would be doing the Members of the Junto too much Honour to liken them unto the abovementioned able Statesmen in any Thing but their flagitious Conjunction and unconstitutional Designs. I shall therefore lump them together, as a set of ignorant, unprincipled, rapacious Beings, who have joined Hand in Hand to ruin both the King and the Kingdom. His Majesty, through their weak, blundering and selfish Measures, is in Fact brought into a more dangerous Dilemma than any King of *England*, beloved by his Subjects, ever was at any Time heretofore! This Junto, not content with bringing the King and the Nation into the vilest Contempt with all earthly Powers, have done their utmost, by advising this Proclamation for a general Fast, to make both his Majesty and innocent Subjects mock the Omnipotent, thereby to draw down the Vengeance of Heaven upon our devoted Country; but, “Be ye not Mockers, my Brethren, lest your Bands be made strong,” *Isa. xxxviii. 22.* To these Sons of *Belial*, who thrive by Rapine, who err in Vision, and stumble in Judgment, one may aptly apply the following Words of the same Prophet *Isaiah*, in the before mentioned Chapter: “Hear the Word of the Lord ye scornful Men; because ye have said, we have made a Covenant with Death, and with Hell are we at Agreement: When the overflowing Scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made Lies our Refuge, and under Falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, &c. Your Covenant with Death shall be disannulled, and
“your

"your Agreement with Hell shall not stand; when the
 "overflowing Scourge shall pass through, *then shall ye be*
 "*traddled down by it.*" For my own Part, when I first
 heard of the abovesaid Proclamation, I could scarce believe
 my Ears, nor my Eyes, when I saw and read it! Surely,
 said I, the Adversary (c) must be at the Bottom of this, as
 he knows that religious Mutations make Room for irreligi-
 gious Opinions, and civil Commotions for uncivil Prac-
 tices: In this I was still further confirmed, when I con-
 sidered that the same evil one (who was a Liar from the
 Beginning) loves to fish in troubled Waters, and never
 desires better Sport than to see light Heads handle their
 Heels, and fetch their Careers when the Roof both of
 Church and State lay open and exposed to the most emi-
 nent Danger.---On a closer Investigation of this extraor-
 dinary Edict, it appeared plain to Demonstration, to be a
 Chip of the old Block. The late Act for Instance, which
 tolerates the *Roman Catholic Religion in Canada*, was ano-
 ther of Satan's Manceuvres. If he had his free Option, he
 would ask nothing else but Liberty to enfranchise all other
 Religions, and to embondage the true; nor should he need:
 The disguising of sacred Truths, laxe Tollerations upon
 State Pretences, and planting Necessities are his most subtle
 Stratagems to supplant the Peace of the Church. He who
 scruples not to tolerate any unsound Opinions, that his
 own (be they ever so sound) may also be tolerated, will for
 a Need, hang God's Bible at the Devil's Girdle! But,
 my Brethren, there is no Rule given by God for any State
 to give an *affirmative Toleration* to any false Religion or
 Opinion whatsoever; they may connive in some Cases,
 but not concede in any. Tolérations in Things tole-
 rable (exquisitively drawn out by the Lines of Scripture,
 and Pencil of the Spirit) are the sacred Favours of Truth,
 the due Latitudes of Love, the fair Compartments of
 Christian Fraternity: But irregular Dispensations dealt
 forth by the Facilities of Men, are the Frontiers of Error,
 the Redoubts of Schism, the penibous Irritations of carnal
 Enmity. True Religion strictly binds every Conscience

The Devil.
 to

to contend earnestly for the Truth; to preserve Unity of Spirit, Faith and Ordinances; to be all like minded of one Accord; every Man to take his Brother under his Christian Protection and Care, and to stand fast with one Spirit, with one Mind, striving together for the Faith of the Gospel, and by no Means to ~~perme~~ ^{perme} Heresies, or erroneous Opinions. A greater Indignity cannot be offered to the All-just Creator of the Universe, than to erect Untruths against his Truth, or by sophisticating his Truths with humane Medleys. The removing of some Iota in Scripture, may draw out all the Life, and traverse all the Truth of the whole Bible; but to authorize an Untruth, is to build a Sconce against Heaven. It was prognosticated of old, that if *England* should at any Time, either wittingly tolerate, or weakly connive at such Courses, the Church of that Kingdom would become the Devil's Dancing-School, instead of God's Temple; the civil State a Bear-Garden; and that Rapine, Murder and Tyranny would set up their Standards in it! How are we approaching to Destruction! how are we fallen and degenerated! Grievously may we expect to be punished for swerving from the eternal Truths of God, but more especially for calling on his divine Goodness (as we are now directed) as well to bear Witness to our Apostacy, as to sanctify our unexpiated murderous Deeds, and rank Injustice, committed against our innocent fellow Subjects in *North America*! The Power of Religion and Ordinances lies in their Purity; their Purity in their Simplicity—Let us then beware of all pernicious Mixtures, and eschew the Compounders of them as the most dangerous Pests to Society. I will add, that whoever have been open Actors or secret Abettors of these Measures, it will be their Wisdom, to proportion their Repentance to the Heinousness and Magnitude of their Sin, before God makes them public Monuments of Ignominy; for, “He that sitteth in the Heavens laughs at them; the most High hath them in Derision, and their Folly shall be manifested unto all Men.” Yea, notwithstanding the high Priest (of the Law) with his Remitteres, or Dispensations in the judicial Capacity, and his “*Dixit Bello*”,

“*Bello,*” or “*Facta est alea,*” in the Senatorial, may tell them otherwise, and clap them on the Back, with a “Go on Gentlemen, never fear, you have unkennelled or turned the Devil out of Doors!” But hift, hift, Sir *Gravity*, a Word with you, the Business is not compleatly done, ’till you throw the old Parell after him, out at the Window, lest he should make an Errand to come back for it again; which Visit, peradventure, might be as unwelcome to your L——p in particular, as that of his D——ship to Dr. *Faustus*, or the Jovial Carpenter, who had both sold themselves, as the Story goes, for a valuable Consideration. The latter, indeed, is said to have slipped through the old Gentleman’s Fingers, by the Help of holy Water; but that possibly may not serve your Lordship’s Turn.—Truth is the Parent of Liberty, whether political or personal; so much Untruth, so much Thralldom, *John* viii. 32. The Scripture saith, there is nothing makes free but Truth: I am sure Satan makes it his chief Business to adulterate Truth; Falsehood is his Scepter, whereby he first ruffled, and hath ever since endeavoured to ruin the World. *Christ* would have his Church without Wrinkle or Spot, and his Servants without Hypocrisy: They that help make it and them so, shall lose neither Honour nor Labour. If ye be wise, suffer no more Thorns in his Sides, or your own. When God kindles such Fires as these, he doth not usually quench them till the very Scum on the Pot Sides be clean boiled away, *Ezek.* xxiv. The Arm of the Lord is mighty, very heavy; who can abide his devouring Fire, and long lasting Burnings?—I have Cause enough to be as charitable to others as any Man living; yet I cannot but fear, that the K—s M—rs in religious Matters, never moored their Anchors well in the Soil of Heaven; and in Politicks I am sure, are gone far from firm Land, from all solid Principles of Government, riding adrift, hither and thither, as every Wave and Current carries them; answering the Apostles Description of wandering Stars and Meteors, without any certain Motion, hurried about with Tempests bred of the Exhalations of their own Pride and Self-wittedness;

whof

whose Damnation sleepeth not, and to whom the Mist of Darkness is reserved for ever, that they may suffer irreparable Shipwreck upon the Sands and Rocks of their own Errors. “ *Non Senescit Veritas,*” former Truths are not grown superannuate and sapless, nor altogether antiquated, or out of Remembrance, any more than the extraordinary Interpositions and Providences of God Almighty, aforesaid shewn unto this Nation. It is full Season for the supreme Ruler of the Universe to work his sovereign Work again, and to assert his Sovereignty, that we may fear before him. “ The Piercing of his Sword shall “ discover the Thoughts of many Hearts,” and as he hath his Remnant whom he will carefully preserve, may all devout Christians and true Lovers of the constitutional Rights of this Country, be found among his Elect.—I am sorry to say, my Fellow Countrymen, that through some Kind of Misrule or other, we are under a most dangerous Predicament at this Time. That State which permits Errors in Religion, will admit Errors in Policy unavoidably; and that Policy which shall permit irreligious Errors, will suffer the Loss of so much Liberty in one Kind or other: I fear too many such Errors and Inconveniencies have crept into this State at present. When the Lord God of Heaven and Earth beholds Christian States unsound in their Foundations, illineal in their Superstructures, unjust in their Administrations, he kicks them in Pieces with the Foot of his Indignation. “ Woe “ to thee that spoilest, and thou wast not spoiled; and “ dealest treacherously, and they dealt not treacherously “ with thee. Your Spoil shall be gathered like the Gathering of the Caterpillar; the Valiant shall cry “ without; the Ambassadors of Peace shall weep bitterly; *Bashan* and *Carmel* shall shake off their Fruits; “ ye shall conceive Chaff; ye shall bring forth Stubble.” But when religious Statesmen build by the Level and Plummeth of God’s Wisdom, the People may say, as his Servants did of old, “ Look upon *Zion*, the City of “ your Solemnities, your Eyes shall see it a quiet Habitation, a Tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not “ one of the Stakes thereof shall ever be removed; neither “ shall

“ shall any of the Cords thereof be broken.” *Isa.* xxxiii. Can we hope to look on such a City in this distracted Country? Alas my Brethren, I believe we want a thorough Repair indeed!—When rotten States have been well and stoutly mended from the Upper Leather to the Nether Solè; Proportions duly admeasured, and Justice justly dispensed, then shall Rulers and Subjects have Peace with God and themselves: But till then, the gayest Kingdoms are little better than removing and commoving Hovels! Such a *Zion* as above described, peradventure will sooner arise on the other Side of the Atlantick than in our now unfortunate Country, over which the Line of Confusion seems to be stretched out, and long Furrows made on the Back of its Inhabitants, apparently intending their Ruin to the very utmost, and to over-run the Land with croaking Frogs, to bring amongst us the wild Beast of the Desert to meet with the wild Beasts of the Island, the Satyr to cry to his Fellow, the Screech Owl and the Great Owl to lay and hatch, and the Vultures with their Mates! But *Englishmen*, I conjure you to love *Old England* with your Hearts, and preserve it by your Valour: Stand your Ground, ye *Eleazars*, and *Shammahs*; stir not a Foot, while you have Half a Foot of Ground to stand upon; stem the Torrent as long as ye are able, and when ye can no longer withstand it, be assured that if God calls you into a Wilderness, he will be no Wilderness to you, *Jer.* ii. 31. Witness his large Beneficence to our virtuous Brethren in *North-America*.

I shall now presume to say a few Words to the King with Respect to the *American War*, and some other interesting Matters:

To the K I N G.

May it please your Majesty,

It was a cardinal Truth which Cardinal *Pole* spake to King *Henry* the Eighth, “ *Penes Reges est inferre Bellum, Penes autem Deum terminare.*”—If Kings will make their Beginnings, God will make his Ends. Your Majesty must know whether you received the Petition mentioned

ioned in the former Part of this Tract, or not: You must also know who advised you to slight or take no Notice of that dutiful Petition, and what were the Motives for so doing. The following Sayings are to be met with amongst our old *English* Adages, viz. "They who screw up the Pins of Power too high, will break the Strings of the common Wealth;" and, "That Prince, who, upon every Commotion of the Subject, rusheth presently into open War, is like him who sets his own House on Fire, to roast his Eggs." Who would have thought at the auspicious Beginning of your Majesty's Reign, that ever *Majestas imperii* would have challenged *Salus Populi* into the Field in the Plains of *North America*; the one fighting for Prerogative, the other for Liberty? Whatever was before the Records of Time, and of our *English* History, I leave to better Antiquarians than myself to elucidate; but I do not recollect it to have been storied, that *Salus Populi* ever began with *Majestas Imperii*, unless *Majestas imperii* first unharboured it, and hunted it to a Stand, and then it must either turn Head and live, or turn Tail and die. *Preces et Lachrymæ*, are the first Weapons to be used in such Quarrels; Prayers and Tears are good Weapons for them that have nothing but Knees and Eyes; but most Men are born with Teeth and Nails; only they must neither scratch for Liberties, nor bite Prerogatives, 'till they have wept and prayed as God would have them: Your Majesty's *American* Subjects say, They have penitently, piously, and fervently done so; and as a Proof of their dutiful Attachment to your Majesty, and good Will to this Country, refer to their Petition of the first of *September*, 1775, before mentioned. Far better were it for your Majesty to make an End of this War in Time, than put the God of Truth to make such an End of a Controversy as is mentioned in *1 Sam. iii.* Though *Samuel* is said there not to have then known the Lord, neither was the Word of the Lord at that Time revealed unto him; the Divine Being singled him out to confirm a notable Prophecy against the House of *Eli*, who was then the High Priest and Ruler over the *Israelites*. "Behold I will do a Thing in *Israel*, at which

“ both the Ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle :
 “ In that Day I will perform against *Eli* all Things which I
 “ have spoⁿen concerning his House,” and, “ when I
 “ begin, I will also make an End.” “ Did I choose him
 “ (said the Lord) out of all the Tribes of *Israel*, to be
 “ my Priest, to offer upon mine Altar, to burn Incense,
 “ to wear an Ephod before me ?” Your Majesty need
 not be told, That God suffered his own peculiar People,
 the *Jews*, to be under divers Forms or Modes of Govern-
 ment at different Times ; as first, under Patriarchs, *Ab-*
raham, *Isaac*, *Jacob* ; then under Captains, *Mos^s*, *Joshua*,
 &c. then under Judges, *Othniel*, *Ehud*, and *Gideon* ; then
 under high Priests, *Eli*, (the Case now in Contemplation)
 and *Samuel* ; then under Kings, *Saul*, *David* and the rest ;
 then under Captains and High Priests again, as *Zerobabel*,
Judas Macchabees and his Brethren, until the Government
 was at last taken from them, and they brought under the
 Power of the *Romans*. One of the Accusations brought
 against *Eli*’s House (as we read of in the Second Chap-
 ter of same Book of *Samuel*) was, their using a huge
 three pronged Fork, or Flesh Hook, to rob the cho-
 sen People of God (something similar to that which
 your Majesty’s M———rs have used to rob the un-
 fortunate *Americans* ; I mean Fire, Sword, and the re-
 straining Acts) and taking that by Force, which they
 might have obtained with Lenity and fair Means : For
 these and other wicked Practices, the Lord told *Eli*
 “ That he would judge his House for ever for the Iniquity
 “ which he knew, and because he restrained not his Sons,”
 and thereupon sware, “ That the Iniquity of *Eli*’s House
 “ should not be purged with Sacrifice or Offerings for
 “ ever.” I am persuaded from your Majesty’s Character,
 as a virtuous, mild munificent Prince, That this unnat-
 ural War now waging in *North America*, hath proceeded
 from evil Counsellors—Ill Counsellors, my Liege, are very
 ill Gamsters ; for when they see their own Stake a losing,
 they will play away King, Queen, Bishops, Knights,
 Rooks, Pawns, and all, before they will turn up the Board.
 Though your Majesty (by some effective Laws of this
 Kingdom) can do no Wrong, your Ministers, Counsel-
 lors

jors and Judges may, 1 *Ed.* iv. 25. 5 *Ed.* iv. 29. 1 *Ed.* v. The Reason is, nothing can be done by the King's Grant, or any other Act of his, as to the Subjects Persons, Goods, Lands, or Liberties, but must be according to the established Laws; and therefore the M——rs &c. (who are sworn to observe them, are to be questioned and punished if any of the Laws be violated, and no Reflection thrown on the King, 2 *Pars Instit.* 158: And again, the Law saith, "The King can do no Wrong," That he is *Medicus Regni, Pater Patriæ, Sponsus Regni qui per Anulum*, is espoused to his Realm at his Coronation. These are the Words of the *English Law*; 11 *Pars Cook's Reps. Magdalen Col. Case.* Such of our English Princes who wilfully, and sacrilegiously broke this Wedding-Ring, found themselves ill at Ease, 'till their Subjects new soldered it, by exacting fresh Charters of Liberties; whilst others, more careless, and obstinate, and less wise, lost both their Crowns and their Lives in the fatal Contest. I beg Pardon for this short Digression; but your Majesty may observe by the foregoing Quotation from Scripture, touching the Sins of *Eliz's House*, That the Law of God admits of no Expiation, no purging by Sacrifice or Offerings, where a chief Ruler knows of Iniquity, and restrains it not. *St. Paul* expressed more true Valour in saying, "I can do Nothing against the Truth," than *Goliath* in defying the Armies of *Israel*: A thousand Pities it is, your Majesty should lose so many brave and gallant Subjects, in a War, where it is greatly to be feared some grand Mistake commands in Chief. If your Majesty must needs War, be persuaded to contend wisely, lawfully, and steadfastly against all Errors in Divinity and Policy: They are the cursed Means and wicked Desperados, which the Prince of Lies employs with all his Skill and Malice, to prevent Truth from entering in, with Grace and Peace, to save forlorn Sinners, and distressed States—Your Majesty would find it a far easier Field to wage War against all the Armies of *Europe*, than to take up Arms against any Truth of God: It hath more Counsel and Strength than all the World besides, and will certainly either gain or ruin, convert, or subvert, every one that opposes it. Eternal and Almighty Truth, must and will prevail!

prevail ! If your M——rs would come into it, it might save them ; if they turn from it, they forsake their own Mercy : If they continue any longer to oppose it, they will dash themselves in Pieces ; they cannot go from it, or besides it—But they are grown to a Heighth of Confidence and Presumption : Destruction they practice ; it is their Work, their End, the Center to which they have tended—your Majesty's M——rs in fact, have never been upon a sound Bottom, but been hurried on blindly upon weak and fordid Passions of Lust, Avarice, Necessity, Jealousy, Fear, without any sound Bottom. Sometimes they have pretended to have had an extraordinary Call, as *Phineas*, or were like the *Israelites*, having a Pillar of Cloud by Day, and Fire by Night ; that they were doing great Things, not only for the present Generation, but for Posterity ! But what are all these Boastings now come to ? They have torn a great and flourishing Empire in Pieces ; they have executed Wrath upon their Brethren and Friends in *North-America*, and if your Majesty does not prevent them, they will lay desolate their Father's House and their own Country—Their Glory is to be Executioners “ *Affyria* the Rod of my Anger.” Have they restored, healed, saved, comforted any, but their own Colleagues in Rapine and Wickedness ? No ; they have plunged your Majesty, the Kingdom, and themselves, into a Pit of Darkness and Confusion—In short, my Liege, they are gone so far in dissolving the Foundations of Government, that they have impiously come to him who upholds the Pillars of the Earth, thinking to blind and deceive the Almighty, as easily as they have deceived your Majesty ; they have digged thorough the Walls of Flesh and Men, and broken down the great Partition Wall ! But the Lord is in these broken and despised Ordinances of his, and sensible of every Blow that is given them. A Conscience guided by the Wisdom and Power of God, scorns such base and unworthy Ways as your Servants have walked in—Indeed they have made a great Shew of Wisdom as if they would cut the very Hair of Justice, and go away more exact than all that have gone before them ; but when they have multiplied their vain Words, their
swelling

swelling Words, to justify themselves, it is but the Attire of an Harlot, and every one must see, they have done Nothing more, than, “darken Counsel, without Knowledge” —It is the easiest Thing in the World to find out Ways of Ruin, but hard to find out Ways of Peace. Are they provided with an Answer at the Great Tribunal for the Destruction of so many thousand Lives as have been already sacrificed in the *American War*? They will have a tremendous Account to settle: There is the Voice of Brothers Blood, the Blood of *Abel* cries for Revenge and Justice! Are they troubled for their Sins? No: Think they to escape the righteous Judgments of God? Surely not! They are running farther into it: Nay, the only Use they meant to make of the Advantages expected to have been obtained by your Majesty’s brave Troops in *North-America*, was to have had Opportunities of doing more and more Mischief; if they meant any Thing else, they would have sent such full, explicit and equitable Instructions over to that Country, by your Majesty’s Commissioners, as might have insured Success. Your Majesty already is, and are likely to be the greatest Sufferer in the Event of this unhappy War; you have lost your Colonies, your Subjects, your Revenue;—and may lose more than is proper to be surmised here; whilst your Majesty’s blundering M—rs, thrive, increase in Wealth, and live better than ever! In their turning now, they turn not unto God; for God says to them, You do not at all fast unto me, but you are an empty Vine, bringing forth Fruit only to yourselves: They turn not from the Iniquity of their Ways, from their Hypocrisy, but from a vain Proposal of Good, to acting downright Evil. It is like *Esaú’s* Tears, *Saul’s* sacrificing, or *Israel’s* offering up the first born of their Bodies! Poor blinded Men, when they seek to satisfy God, run into more Wickedness against him. This cursed Giddiness of Flesh to do Evil, and then think they do God acceptable Service, is the ripe Fruit of Apostacy; to be left to themselves, that which Way soever they go, they commit Iniquity and not able to practize the Truth! They are in this, the greatest Example of God’s Justice, that the present Age hath brought forth! These are surely
the

the last, and perilous Times mentioned, 2 *Tim.* iii. and they amongst others, the People there spoken of; "Lovers of themselves," &c. That is their fundamental Law, and the Ground of their present Actions: From such (my Leige) turn away.

Give me leave now to speak a Word or two with Respect to the Treatment of the *American* Prisoners. To all Men, yet, what your Majesty's M——rs have made an Argument of Severity and Justice, hath been an Argument of Mercy. Noble Enemies require no more but to get their Enemies into their Power; then they shew Mercy---'Tis *Elisba's* Reason concerning the Syrians, "Wouldest thou smite them that thou hast taken Captive with the Sword and the Bow?" "Set Bread before them that they may eat, and return home." All noble Creatures, both Man and Beast, have this Part of the Majesty of God in them, *to spare those they have subdued*: Only Devils get into their Hands, that they may torment; but they that go upon such Grounds as your M——rs have done, to satisfy an angry Deity, and quiet a guilty Conscience, will always be bloody and cruel. Oh! my Prince, depart from the Tents of these wicked Men, or rather, make them depart from you; drive them out of your Presence for ever, lest they lead your Majesty into Temptation; and then, as the Tempter did of old to our first Parents, endeavour utterly to destroy. To conclude: Your Majesty's Subjects in general are so fully convinced of the Injustice of the *American* War, and likewise of the ruinous Measures which your M——rs have been pursuing, that it is apprehended very few conscientious and intelligent Persons will celebrate the approaching Fast upon the Principles it has been recommended; and such of them who do go to Church on the Day appointed, ought to pray in the following Manner;

Prayer for the Fast Day.

"O Most powerful and glorious Lord God, that rulest
"and commandest all Things; thou sittest in the
"Throne, judging right; we therefore make our Ad-
"dress

" dress to thy Divine Majesty in this Time of our great
 " Necessity. We acknowledge, O heavenly Father!
 " thy exceeding great Blessings heretofore bestowed upon
 " us; we confess that we have been long safe, and did see
 " all Things quiet and flourishing about us, till a Set
 " of evil Counsellors, surrounding the Palace of our
 " gracious King, wickedly endeavoured (contrary to thy
 " sacred Laws, which are all Peace, Love, Union, and
 " for a general Good) to make themselves absolute in
 " this Country; and the more effectually to carry those
 " their wicked Designs into Execution, have plunged us
 " into a cruel and bloody War with our Brethren and
 " Fellow Subjects in *North-America*. Give us Grace
 " seriously to lay to Heart the great Dangers we are ex-
 " posed unto, as well by this unjust War, as by our own
 " unhappy Divisions: Thy Paths, O Lord, are unsearch-
 " able, and thou hast many Ways of punishing a sinful
 " People. We thy unworthy Servants here assembled
 " before thee, do, in Behalf of ourselves, and other the
 " People of *England*, humbly confess that our crying
 " Sins, and manifold Transgressions, have justly and
 " most righteously drawn down these heavy Judgements
 " upon us. Turn thou us, O God our Saviour, and
 " let thine Anger cease from us: But, O gracious God,
 " when thou makest Inquisition for Blood, lay not the
 " Guilt of the innocent Blood that hath been shed in this
 " unjust War; lay it not, O Lord! upon us, or to the
 " Charge of the People at large; nor let it ever be re-
 " quired of us, or our Posterity. Those whom thou
 " wilt punish, thou wilt punish; but do thou, O most
 " merciful Father, take away the Wicked from before the
 " King, that his Throne may be established in Righte-
 " ousness, and so that we thy Servants who have no Hand
 " in this Blood may be delivered from our Enemies, and
 " live together to serve thee, and glorify thy holy Name,
 " all the Days of our Life." If your Majesty, when
 you go to Chapel on the 13th of *December*, would pray
 to the same Effect, who knows but that the God of
 Mercy and Peace may hear our Prayers, and deliver us
 from the impending Dangers that now threaten both your
 Majesty, and your People! Amen. Amen.

